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"Après tout, je n'ai entrepris la chose que sur l'exemple, je ne veux pas dire *des modernes, qui ne tire point à conséquences pour moi,* mais sur celui des *anciens.*"

Il suffit ainsi et il est nécessaire de remettre ces deux mots à leur place pour donner à la phrase un sens cohérent et logique.

Sans doute on peut s'étonner qu'une erreur de ce genre ait pu passer si longtemps inaperçue. Mais n'oublions pas qu'il s'agit d'une préface. Or le public lit peu les préfaces et les commentateurs même les plus avertis ne les épluchent guère. Quant à La Fontaine, bien qu'il fût en général aussi soigneux dans son travail d'écrivain que distrait dans sa vie pratique, il aura eu ce jour-là une petite somnolence et écrit un mot pour un autre. Comme son ami Vergier le lui disait à lui-même:

> Eh! qui pourrait être surpris
> Lorsque La Fontaine s'égare,
> Lui dont la vie est un tissu d'erreurs.[4]

LOUIS CONS.

*Princeton University.*

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## SEVENTEENTH CENTURY REFERENCE TO SHAKESPEARE

The following seventeenth century (1649) reference to *1 Henry IV,* I, iii seems to be unknown:

> What do'st thou mean to stand behind the noon
> *And pluck bright honour from the pale fac'd Moon?*

(The italics are in the original.) The couplet is cited from a poem on the fourth page (unnumbered) of the introductory matter to a pamphlet called ΕΙΚΩΝ Η'ΠΙΣΤΗ. *Or, The faithfull Pourtraicture of a Loyall Subject, in Vindication of* ΕΙΚΏΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΉ, published in 1649.

F. B. KAYE.

*Northwestern University.*

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## SYLVESTRE BONNARD AND THE FAIRY

In the January number of *M. L. N.* (p. 56) Professor B. M. Woodbridge draws an interesting parallel between the apparition of a fairy, perched on the *Chronique de Nurenberg,* to Sylvestre Bonnard and the apparition of a playful Cupid to Philetas in

[4] Vergier, *Lettre à La Fontaine.*